

WHAT THE CLAIM IS:

1. ~~A method for installing at least one of a cable, a rod and a tube in a length of conduit comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing a first, lubricous polymeric material;~~

~~providing a second, high tensile strength polymeric material;~~

~~coextruding said first and second polymeric materials so as to produce a tube having an inner core of said first polymeric material and an outer layer of said second polymeric material thereby forming a coextruded tube having an interior surface with a low coefficient of friction;~~

~~selecting a length of said coextruded tube which can fit inside said conduit;~~

~~installing said coextruded tube within the conduit so as to extend along the length thereof; and~~

~~installing ^{or} at least one of a cable, a rod and a tube in said tube.~~

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of providing a first, lubricous polymeric material comprises providing a polymer chosen from the group consisting of Teflon®, silicone impregnated polyethylene, graphite impregnated polyethylene.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of providing a second, high tensile strength polymeric material comprises providing high molecular weight, high density polyethylene.

Claim 1

4. A method as in claim 2, wherein said step of providing a first, lubricous polymeric material comprises providing silicone impregnated polyethylene wherein the concentration of silicone in relation to polyethylene is between about 0.01% and about 20% by weight.

5. A method as in claim 1, further comprising forming radially protruding ribs which extend longitudinally along at least a portion of the length of said coextruded tube on at least one of the inner surface and the outer surface of said coextruded tube.

6. A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of forming ribs comprises forming ribs on both the inner and outer surfaces of said coextruded tube.

7. A method as in claim 2, further comprising forming radially protruding ribs which extend longitudinally along at least a portion of the length of said coextruded tube on at least one of the inner surface and the outer surface of said coextruded tube.

8. A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of forming ribs is performed concurrently with said step of coextruding.

9. A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of coextruding further comprises coextruding said first and second polymeric materials so as to form a coextruded tube having alternating circumferentially inwardly directed portions and

circumferentially outwardly directed portions along at least a portion of the length of said coextruded tube.

10. A method as in claim 2, wherein said step of coextruding further comprises coextruding said first and second polymeric materials so as to form a coextruded tube having alternating circumferentially inwardly directed portions and circumferentially outwardly directed portions along at least a portion of the length of said coextruded tube.

^{Sub}~~11. A coextruded plastic tube having a permanently lubricated inner surface which comprises a pair of telescopically related inner and outer cylindrical portions, said inner portion including a highly lubricous polymeric material and said outer portion including a high tensile strength polymeric material.~~

²~~12. A coextruded tube as in claim 11,~~ wherein said highly lubricous polymeric material is chosen from the group consisting of Teflon[®], silicone impregnated polyethylene, and graphite impregnated polyethylene.

³~~13. A coextruded tube as in claim 12,~~ wherein said highly lubricous polymeric material is silicone impregnated polyethylene and the concentration of the silicone in relation to the polyethylene resin is between about 0.01% and about 20% by weight.

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~~14.~~ A coextruded tube as in claim ¹~~11~~,
wherein said high tensile strength polymeric
material comprises high molecular weight, high
density polyethylene.

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~~15.~~ A coextruded tube as in claim ¹~~11~~,
wherein at least one of the inner surface and the
outer surface of the tube includes radially
protruding, longitudinally extending ribs, said ribs
extending along at least a portion of the length of
said tube.

⁶
~~16.~~ A coextruded tube as in claim ²~~12~~,
wherein at least one of the inner surface and the
outer surface of the tube includes radially
protruding, longitudinally extending ribs, said ribs
extending along at least a portion of the length of
said tube.

⁷
~~17.~~ A coextruded tube as in claim ¹~~11~~,
wherein the walls of the tube have alternating
circumferentially inwardly directed portions and
circumferentially outwardly directed portions along
at least a portion of the length thereof.

⁸
~~18.~~ A coextruded tube as in claim ²~~12~~,
wherein the walls of the tube have alternating
circumferentially inwardly directed portions and
circumferentially outwardly directed portions along
at least a portion of the length thereof.

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~~19.~~ A prelubricated innerduct for
installing at least one of a cable, a rod or a tube
in a length of conduit comprising:)

claim 9

~~a coextruded plastic tube having inner
 and outer cylindrical portions, said inner portion
 including a highly lubricous polymeric material and
 said outer portion including a high tensile strength
 polymeric material whereby said coextruded tube has
 a permanently lubricated inner surface.~~

¹⁰
~~20.~~ An innerduct as in claim ⁹~~10~~, wherein
 said inner portion includes a highly lubricous
 polymeric material chosen from the group consisting
 of Teflon®, silicone impregnated polyethylene, and
 graphite ²⁰impregnated polyethylene and said outer
 portion includes high molecular weight, high density
 polyethylene.

end

~~21. A method for extending at least one of
 a cable, a rod, and a tube from a first location to
 a second location, spaced from said first location,
 comprising:~~

~~providing a first, lubricous polymeric
 material;~~

~~providing a second, high tensile
 strength polymeric material;~~

~~coextruding said first and second
 polymeric materials so as to produce a tube having
 an inner core of said first polymeric material and
 an outer layer of said second polymeric material
 thereby forming a coextruded tube having an interior
 surface with a low coefficient of friction;~~

~~selecting a length of said coextruded
 tube which can extend from said first location to
 said second location;~~

~~placing said coextruded tube so as to
 extend from said first location to said second
 location; and~~

placing at least one of a cable, a rod and a tube in said coextruded tube so as to extend from said first location to said second location.

22. A method as in claim 21, further comprising forming radially protruding ribs which extend longitudinally along at least a portion of the length of said coextruded tube on at least one of the inner surface and the outer surface of said coextruded tube.

23. A method as in claim 22, wherein said step of forming ribs comprises forming ribs on both the inner and outer surfaces of said coextruded tube.

24. A method as in claim 21, wherein said step of coextruding further comprises coextruding said first and second polymeric materials so as to form a coextruded tube having alternating circumferentially inwardly directed portions and circumferentially outwardly directed portions along at least a portion of the length of said coextruded tube.

25. A method as in claim 21, wherein said step of placing said coextruded tube so as to extend between said first location and said second location comprises ^{burying} ~~placing~~ said coextruded tube ^{directly} ~~in a trench~~ which has been formed in the ground between said first location and said second location.

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